

# Winter 2202-2023

Dec/Jan/Feb

## Newsletter for the Town of Townsend

### In this issue:

- ❖ Happy Holidays from Town Council
- ❖ Prepare for Severe Weather
- ❖ Townsend Resident Plays Santa
- ❖ Board of Adjustment Volunteers
- ❖ Snow & Ice Ordinances
- ❖ Past & Upcoming Events
- ❖ From the Town
- ❖ Mayor's Corner

### TOWN MANAGER:

**Antonina Tantillo**

[townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov)

302-378-8082

### TOWN MAYOR:

**Scott Lobdell**

- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Human Resources
- ❖ Land Use & Development
- ❖ Code Review

### TOWN COUNCIL

**Eschalla Clarke**

- ❖ National Wildlife
- ❖ Public Safety
- ❖ Veterans committee

**Edward Dugan**

- ❖ Human Resources
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ National Wildlife

**Joshua Mertz**

- ❖ Code Review
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ Public Safety

**Sheryl Rojas**

- ❖ Land Use & Development
- ❖ Veterans Committee
- ❖ Community Engagement

141 Main Street  
P.O. Box 223  
Townsend, DE. 19734  
(302)378-8082



## FROM THE HEART

### Happy Holidays from Your Town Council



Your Town Council hopes everyone had a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2023 and hope to see you in attendance at the Town Council meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Check the Town website for a virtual link if you would prefer to attend from where you are comfortable.

### Be Prepared for Severe Weather

Severe weather can strike at any time. Preparation is key in making it through a blizzard, flood event, or a power outage. Have the following items on the ready:

- Flashlights, not candles
- Fresh batteries
- Battery-operated clock radio
- A fully-charged cell phone
- Non-perishable foods
- Water: one gallon of bottled water per person per day without electric service. If your home is served by well water, fill a bathtub with water for sanitation use.
- Local maps
- Blankets
- Keep a first-aid kit in your home and in your car. Visit the [FEMA Emergency Preparedness](#) website for recommended items.
- Make a list of emergency phone numbers (including 1-800-898-8042 to report outages).
- Keep cash on hand.

Besides the above items, be sure to listen to weather forecasts and adjust travel plans as necessary.

## **Townsend Resident Plays Mrs. Santa Claus**

Jaszmine Koonhow, and her family, have a HUGE heart! Ms. Koonhow collected gifts and funds to purchase over 300 gifts for the children in the Opportunity House Shelter in Reading, PA. She lived for 2 years in the same shelter as a young female and remembered the feeling of getting nothing or maybe socks as a present. Ms. Koonhow vowed that as an adult, if she was in the position to make a change for these children she would. Boy oh boy did she hold herself to her word!

This was the first year Jaszmine took on this challenge and it was a huge success! She had assistance from many in the community as word of her project spread. She plans on doubling the amount for next year and sending more holiday cheer in our local shelters. If you are interested in being a part of this effort next year, please email Sheryl Rojas at [srojas@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:srojas@townsend.delaware.gov) and she will share your contact information with Ms. Koonhow.



## **Board of Adjustments: Volunteers Wanted**

If you are interested in having a voice in the development of your Town and want to volunteer, the Board of Adjustments is a great way to give back! Meetings are held periodically to hear requests for an exception to an existing Town Ordinance by a developer or resident. Board of Adjustment members serve the Town in accordance with Townsend Municipal [Code Chapter 24.08.020](#). If you'd like to become involved, please contact the Town Manager at [townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov).

## Snow & Ice Ordinances

Snow and ice can cause major problems on roadways and sidewalks. The Town, in accordance with [Townsend Municipal Code Chapter 10.08](#), will make emergency calls regarding parking and removing cars from the roadways during inclement weather. Any motor vehicles that are parked on Town maintained streets on the even-numbered side of all streets in Townsend, in violation of this article, may be removed or towed away and impounded by authority of the Town Manager or Mayor to an official pound, provided, however, that no vehicles shall be towed away if at the time of the intended removal the owner or person claiming to be responsible for the car is present and expresses a willingness and intention to immediately remove said vehicle. If you have not registered for the Code Red emergency notification system, it is strongly advised that you do so now.

Also, in accordance with [Townsend Municipal Code Chapter 10.04.020](#) it shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any premises in the Town immediately in front of, beside or behind a sidewalk to permit or allow snow or ice to remain thereon for longer than 12 hours after daylight after it shall have ceased snowing. The Town may have snow remaining in violation of this section removed immediately and charge the cost of removal to the owner or occupant of his property abutting the sidewalk.

## Past Events

### November

#### Thank a Veteran

Veterans Day was recognized on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. The windows of Town Hall were decorated with stars painted on the sidewalk surrounding the building, artwork from Townsend Elementary School, LifeHouse Church Early Childhood Center, and essays from JROTC cadets from Salem County VoTech of New Jersey filled every window in Town Hall. Eagle Scout, Logan Ament, discussed his Global War on Terror Memorial Project, and a local cub scout troop lead us in the pledge and read a poem about the red poppy that is associated with veterans.

Our keynote speaker was former Mayor and Navy Veteran Patrick Miller. Chief Longo, also an Army Veteran, led us in prayer. The Koonhow family, who had a family member currently deployed invited to attend as special guests. Mrs. Koonhow gave a very moving speech of how honored her family was to be recognized for their sacrifice and followed up with a prayer for our service members and their families. Local veterans attending the ceremony were invited to speak about their time in service and thanked the Town Council for recognizing them on this day.



# Resources:

## TOWN STAFF

Mariaelena Rivera-  
Town Clerk  
Jennifer Helms-  
Finance Officer  
Kelsey Gallagher-  
Administrative Assistant  
Paul DiMartino-  
Public Works Supervisor  
George Hargrove-  
Maintenance Worker

## Townsend Fire Company 26

Fire Chief: Leonard Wallace III  
Deputy Chief: Patrick Gilchrist

107 Main Street  
302-378-8111  
911 for Emergencies

## Appoquinimink Community Library

204 E Main Street, Middletown  
302-378-5588

Hours:  
Mon-Wed: 10am-9pm  
Thursday: Closed  
Fri-Sat: 10am-5pm  
Sun: Closed

## SCHOOLS

Townsend Early Childhood  
10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend  
302-378-9960

Townsend Elementary  
126 Main St, Townsend  
302-378-5020

Meredith Middle School  
504 S Broad St, Middletown  
302-378-5001

Odessa High School  
570 Tony Marchio Dr, Townsend  
302-842-2625

## DVSA Food Drive

The Town of Townsend supported the DVSA associated with VFW Post 7209 to stomp out hunger in the community. There was donation box at Town Hall and approximately 30 items were provided to DVSA for their gift baskets for local veterans

## December

## Tree Lighting & Caroling

The Town of Townsend Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Caroling occurred on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. A collection of food for Our Daily Bread in Middletown and toys for the Marines Toys for Tots drive was held in conjunction with this event. About 50 new toys were collected. Musical entertainment was provided by the Odessa High School Ensemble along with the Immanuel Methodist Choir singing carols with the crowd.



Chief Longo escorted Santa Claus to the Town Park to magically light our beautiful tree. In the process he also captured the Grinch and brought him in handcuffs to the park. Many pictures were taken with Santa and the Grinch; while those in attendance enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies provided by Immanuel Methodist Church.



## Holiday Lights Contest

The Town of Townsend held their Annual Holiday Light Contest! Homes were judged in two categories of modern and traditional. Winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card and Runner-ups will receive a \$25 gift card. Here are your winners and runner ups for 2022!

Modern:



1<sup>st</sup> Place 1110 E Founds Street



2<sup>nd</sup> Place 219 Edgar Road

Traditional:

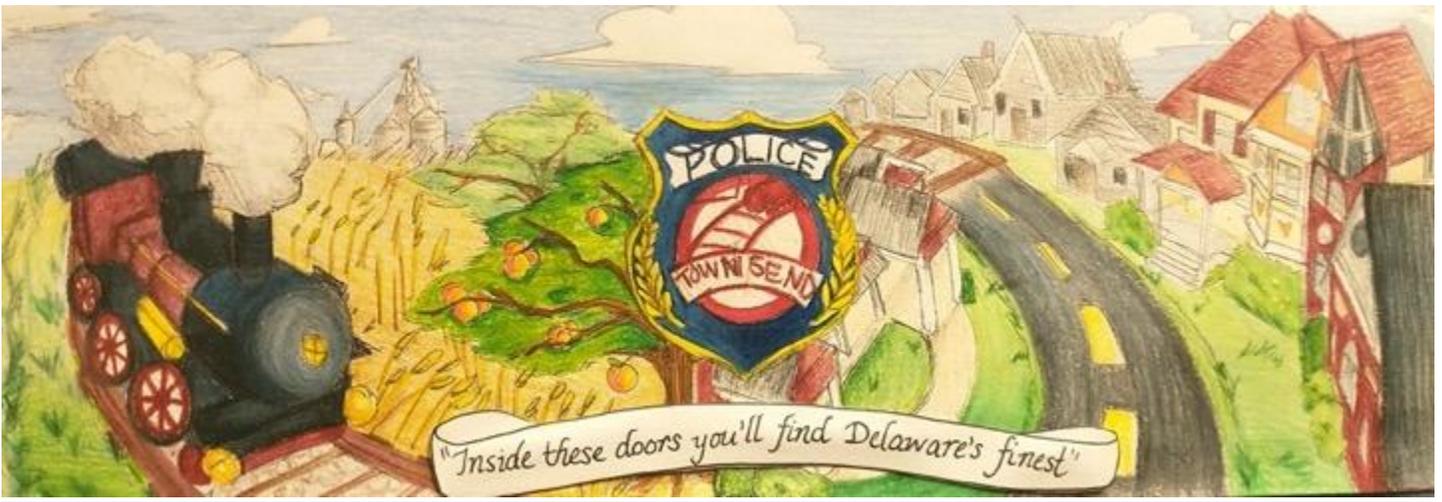


1<sup>st</sup> Place 221 Edgar Road

2<sup>nd</sup>- 740 Tracy

## Art Mural Winner Chosen

The Art Club students from Odessa High School have been chosen as the winner of the Townsend Art Mural Contest! Ms. Brianna Shetzler and her students incorporated the old and new of Townsend into this beautiful and thoughtful design. Congratulations to Ms. Shetzler and her students! Next phase, executing the painting in the Townsend Police Station.



## Upcoming Events

### February

The Town of Townsend and Sylvan Learning Center in Middletown will offer a free practice SAT exam on February 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 am until Noon. This is for Townsend residents who will be graduating in 2024 & 2025. Seating is limited so registration is required. Please contact the Town Hall at 302-378-8082 or email [townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov) prior to February 16<sup>th</sup>. Watch the Town's Facebook page for more information.

### March/April/May

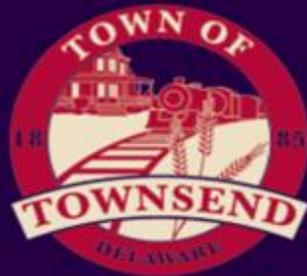
Follow all Town platforms for information regarding spring events that are still in the planning process. Stay tuned...

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2023

## TOWNSEND

## TOWN FAIR & PARADE



June 3, 2023

Parade & Fair

Townsend Municipal Park- O Edgar  
Road, Townsend, DE

PRIZES, FOOD, VENDORS,  
STRAWBERRY PIE CONTEST,  
L'IL MISS AND MISTER STRAWBERRY  
CONTEST

CONTACT: TOWN HALL (302) 378-8082  
OR [TOWNHALL@TOWNSEND.DELAWARE.GOV](mailto:TOWNHALL@TOWNSEND.DELAWARE.GOV)

# Volunteers Needed

Townsend Residents and Local Business Owners, please consider helping with the planning of the 2023 Townsend Parade and Fair. All ages are welcome to assist in the planning of the parade, fair activities and bring new or old ideas into the 2023 Parade and Fair. If you're interested in attending some planning meetings, please reach out to either the Town Manager at [atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov) or Councilwoman Sheryl Rojas at [srojas@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:srojas@townsend.delaware.gov). Please provide your name, phone, email, and times that you're available. Thank you for considering!

## From the Town

### Residents Curb your Dogs

Dog owners, please have your pet relieve themselves in the easement area between the curb and the sidewalk. This is not the owner's yard. Make sure to pick-up your dog waste and dispose of properly.

Residents, if you see someone who does not clean up after their pet, please file a complaint with the Town and they will attempt to locate the owner and fine them \$50 per incident.

### Part-time Administrative Assistant

The Town will be posting a job announcement to fill a vacant position. Watch the Town website for the posting if you are interested in applying.

### Public Works

Stop signs have been replaced at various corners around Town. Painting of the curbs in front of the fire hydrants has begun and will continue as the weather permits.

### Townsend Police Department

Townsend Police Department- Delaware Facebook page is now live. Make sure to like it to stay up to date on events and important information happening within town limits.

### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is working on revision to the Future Land Use & Growth Annexation area maps. They will be sending their revisions to State PLUS for review and approval. These members are also reviewing the current zoning ordinances for updates to the current policies.

### Annexation of Property into Town

Town Manager Ms. Tantillo was informed that NCC approved the annexation of 6170 Summit Bridge Road into Town. This annexation is still subject to Town Council approval. Additional properties around town continue to inquire into annexation. Should you or someone you know be interested in annexing into Town, please contact Townsend Town Hall at [townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov) or via phone at 302-378-8082.

### Little Libraries

Residents, please utilize and re-populate the Little Libraries that are located around town. The libraries can accept children, young adult, adult, color books and other activity books (crossword, word find, etc.) If you notice a library that is needing books, please contact the Town.

### Property Tax Adjustment Bills

Property taxes are due by October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. New Castle County reassessment notices are sent to the Town each quarter and supplemental tax bills are sent to homeowners who see a change in their assessment value each quarter. Should you have any questions about your tax bill please contact Townsend Town Hall at [townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov) or via phone at 302-378-8082.

### Upcoming Meetings

Residents are invited to attend any meetings at Town Hall. The meetings can be located on the town website under the Government-Meetings & Events.

- Town Council 2/1 at 7pm
- Planning Commission 2/9 at 7pm

## **Town Manager: Looking Forward to 2023**

Happy New Year to the residents and friends of the Town of Townsend! As we welcome the new year, I am excited to continue to lead the Town as it continues to prosper and provide opportunities for our residents to have a happy, healthy, and safe community!

In 2023, I will continue working with Town Council and our hard-working staff through various projects. We're working on several grant projects such as the Town's Surface Water Matching Planning Project for which the Town has received two grants from DNREC! We are also the recipient of a Sustainable Communities Grant from Delmarva Power and the Delaware Nature Society for which the Town will be working on Solar Panel Replacement and the Delmarva Power Interconnect allowing the Town to work towards sustainability and clean energy. We will also partner with DelDOT on the Townsend Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and other initiatives in Town to support safe transportation throughout the Town. Please visit the Town's website or Facebook to complete the Townsend Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan survey and let your voice be heard.

Also, in 2023 we are bringing back our annual Town Fair and Parade but this year, in June! To learn more about future Town events, or to volunteer to support Town events, please follow our Townsend Facebook page, visit the Town website, or contact the Town directly at [townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov).

We will work towards earning additional points for the Town's National Wildlife Federation accreditation by adding additional butterfly gardens and helping you build your own butterfly gardens and wildlife habitats. Please visit our website or contact Town Hall to learn how to create your own butterfly gardens.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly at Town Hall via phone 302-378-8082 or via email [atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov) with any concerns or ideas you may have to support our beautiful Town. I wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe, and healthy 2023!

Best wishes,  
Town Manager Antonina Tantillo

## **The Mayor's Corner**

Hello Townsend! It's hard to believe we have turned the page on 2022 already!

As you will see in this newsletter, we finished off the year with many successful events around town. We have many exciting things planned for 2023 that Council and all of Town staff have been hard at work planning.

I hope everyone has a fantastic start to the new year and that each of you has many things planned for 2023. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the Town. I look forward to working with everyone to make our town an even better place to live.

Mayor Scott Lobdell